

All thematic map layers created by Soil Data Viewer are temporary. Once the user exits ArcMap, these temporary map layers are automatically deleted. This document describes a method for permanently saving these map layers in a way that will preserve the related map legend symbology and attribute table, verbatim.

While you can save a map layer created by Soil Data Viewer as a shape file, the related map legend symbology will be lost, and any values that were originally null will erroneously be interpreted as zero when that data is loaded back into ArcMap. This interpretation of nulls as zero in a shape file is a known problem with ArcGIS.

1. Start Windows Explorer and create a folder that will serve as the location to permanently store the data associated with map layers created by Soil Data Viewer. From here on this folder will be referred to as “*SDV_Permanent*”.
2. Start a different Windows Explorer session and navigate to the temporary folder used by the Soil Data Viewer application. This path varies from user to user, as shown below.

C:\Documents and Settings**your login**\Local Settings\Application Data\USDA\Soil Data Viewer 5\temp

From here on this folder will be referred to as “*SDV_Temporary*”.

If you are unable to see some of the folders in the hierarchy shown above, it may be necessary to change a setting in Windows Explorer. In Windows Explorer, select “Folder Options” from the View menu, and then click the view tab on the dialog that comes up. In the section titled “Hidden files and folder”, select “Show hidden files and folders” and then click OK.

3. Start ArcMap.
 - a. From the File menu select “Map Properties”.
 - b. From the dialog that comes up, click “Data Source Options”.
 - c. From the dialog that comes up, select “Store relative path names”, and then click “OK”.
 - d. Click “OK” to clear the Map Properties dialog.

This step must be performed BEFORE generating any soil thematic maps that you wish to permanently save.

4. Continue with your ArcMap/Soil Data Viewer session and generate all desired maps for the current area of interest. When you have finished your session, save your current ArcMap project (.mxd) in the *SDV_Temporary* folder by selecting “Save As” from the File menu. You will have to provide a file name. **Do not close ArcMap at this time.**

5. Activate the Windows Explorer session that is displaying the *SDV_Temporary* folder contents.

- a. Select and copy all files in the *SDV_Temporary* folder.
- b. Paste all of the selected files into the *SDV_Permanent* folder.

At this point all of the map layers created by Soil Data Viewer have been permanently saved. You can close ArcMap at this point.

To view your saved results, start ArcMap and load the project you just saved by selecting “Open” from the File menu and selecting the file with the .mxd extension in folder *SDV_Permanent*.

Due to how Soil Data Viewer names its temporary files, you cannot save the results of a session to the same permanent folder where you saved the results of a previous session. The name of a Soil Data Viewer temporary file is only unique to a particular session.

We realize that this process is unwieldy and very inconvenient. In a future version of Soil Data Viewer we intend to include a process for permanently saving the results of a session.